

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 00804 031629Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANJUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SG, GV, SU, ET
SUBJECT: SENEGALESE VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA/SUDAN TENSION AND
RELATIONS WITH GUINEA

REF: DAKAR 666(NOTAL)

1. RETURNING FEBRUARY 2 FROM FOUR-DAY VISIT TO PARIS FOR
OPENING OF POMPIDOU CULTURAL CENTER, SENEGALESE PRESIDENT
SENGHOR COMMENTED TO PRESS AT AIRPORT ON AFRICAN ISSUES
(AND OTHER SUBJECTS BEING REPORTED SEPTEL).

2. CONCERNING TENSION BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN, SENGHOR
SAID "WE WERE SEIZED BY THE TWO PORTIES. I WROTE TO
PRESIDENTS NUMAYRI AND BANTI, AND THE (SENEGALESE)
FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS TO BE IN PARIS TODAY, WILL GO
TO SEE THEM AND WILL PROPOSE NOT MEDIATION BUT A METHOD
OF DIALOGUE. IT IS A QUESTION OF ARRIVING AT EFFICACITY
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BECAUSE THESE ARE TWO BROTHER PEOPLES WHO BOTH BELONG
TO THE ETHIOPIAN GROUP OF NEGRO-AFRICAN PEOPLE."

3. JOURNALIST NOTED THAT GUINEAN ATTITUDE AT LAGOS
BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL HAD BEEN "FRANKLY HOSTILE AND
PROVOCATIVE" TOWARD SENEGAL AND SAID SEKOU TOURE HAD
ACCUSED SENEGAL OF HAVING BEEN AT ORIGIN OF ALLEGED

MERCENARY ATTACK ON COTONOU. ASKED IF HE DID NOT THINK THAT RUPTURE IN SENEGALESE-GUINEAN RELATIONS HAD REACHED "POINT OF NO RETURN," SENGHOR REPLIED WITH WRY SMILE OF EXASPERATION: "THERE IS NEVER A POINT OF NO RETURN. I FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO TREAT THESE INCIDENTS SCORNFULLY" (AVEC MEPRIS)."

4. DAKAR PRESS HAS REPORTED PROTEST MADE IN LAGOS BY GOS MINISTER OF CULTURE SENE OVER GUINEAN "PROVOCATIONS" INCLUDING DISCRIMINATION BY GUINEAN NATIONAL WHO IS SERVING AS FESTAC PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PRESENTATION OF GUINEAN PLAY WHICH CONSTITUTED "TRAVESTY" OF NOVEMBER 1944 REBELLION IN DAKAR AGAINST FRENCH. SENEGALESE WERE APPARENTLY CONCERNED THAT PLAY GAVE BLOODY FACE TO FRENCH COLONIALISM AND PERSONIFIED SENEGALESE AS FRENCH THEMSELVES. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, SENE DENOUNCED GUINEAN FOR "FALSIFYING HISTORIC TRUTH, DENIGRATING A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, AND USING SHOP-WORN PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS IN CONTEXT OF A CULTURAL EVENT." SENE REPORTEDLY REMINDED GUINEANS THEY HAD AMPLE DRAMATIC THEME MATERIAL MORE CLOSE AT HAND IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF INTELLECTUALS IN GUINEA AND GUINEA'S FULANI PROBLEM.

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